

A Fable

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Once upon a time Mother Hen was offered a job at Empire Egg Company. She was well qualified to be the supervisor of egg production, but she was concerned about chicken care for her chicks. Her long hours required her to find care outside of the nest and her modest salary required her to carefully consider her options.

An intelligent chicken she was, so she called Chicken Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R). They supplied her with a list of chicken care centers, with openings, near her home, but her question remained: which one was the best?

Mother Hen was smart. She knew she should ask more questions than "How much does it cost?" and "Do you have openings for my two chicks?" She wanted to visit every center to check out the quality, but that was impossible since her starting date was in two days. She decided to ask her farmyard friends.

Mother Hen respected Owl, who lived in the maple tree. She walked to the edge of the farm, but she couldn't talk to him until he awoke from his nap. Owl respected the educational backgrounds of the teachers and administrators at the "Owl Care Center." That would be his choice.

Wanting another opinion, Mother Hen consulted with Mother Duck, since her ducklings seem to be thriving at "Ducks Come First." Their duck pond provided a safe and healthy environment with lots of opportunities for the ducklings to perfect their swimming skills. The ducklings were read stories, ate juicy worms and the teachers followed a regular schedule every day. Mother Duck's suggested "Ducks Come First."

Mother Hen needed another opinion. She checked with Patty Pig. Patty, having a lot of piglets, chose a center close to home. That way, as the parent, she can be involved in the program. She knows that "Our Precious Pigs" also participates in the food program and sends home a weekly newsletter. Patty Pig recommended this center for Mother Hen.

So many choices, so little time for Mother Hen. In one day she will need to choose a chicken care center. She has too many opinions and not enough information to make the best selection for her chickens.

Mother Hen thought and thought and thought some more. She decided to do what other parents do. Mother Hen called Owl Care, Ducks Come First and Our Precious Pigs. She asked only one question, "How much does it cost?" In the end, Mother Hen selected the center that charged the lowest rates, knowing very little more, but hoping for the best....

The End

